

03-07-02

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VN-0140US

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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
Takayuki SATO

Appln. No. 09/682,122

Group Art Unit: 2635

Filed: July 25, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

Confirmation No.: 1135

For: **MULTI-UNIT BUILDING WITH SECURE ENTRY SYSTEM**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir,

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the document which is listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of the listed document is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under § 1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Application No. 09/682,122



In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the attached concise explanation of relevance.

The submission of the listed document is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 4, 2002

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ATTACHMENT TO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 DATED MARCH 4, 2002

Concise Explanation of Relevance

JP2000-259970-A

A flats management system, including a personal computer storing outputs of abnormality sensors, is accessed through a telephone to transmit information to a predetermined security company. The system is used for remote control of household electric appliances, such as a hot water supply machine, illumination apparatus, and air conditioner. The document discloses that safety of a flat during absence of the resident is ensured, since the resident is able to access the personal computer that stores information about abnormalities through a telephone. For example, Figure 1 shows an explanatory diagram of the flats management system, having a personal computer 1; electrical appliances 3; camera 5; intercom 6; security company 18; telephone 24, among others. The personal computer (1) receives an output signal of heat, gas leakage and infrared ray sensors. The personal computer when accessed by a telephone (24) transmits information about existence of a fire, gas leakage, unauthorized entry and ON/OFF condition of electrical appliances (3) to a predetermined security company (18). The personal computer stores image and voice data of visitors, recorded by a camera (5) and an intercom (6), respectively, that are installed at the entrance. The personal computer is accessed through a telephone.